

2020-2021 School Improvement Council

First Name	Last Name	Service Role
Sara	Barker	
Brandy	Brown	
Gisele	Butler	
Margaret	Campbell	
George	Chandler	
Marcie	Cope	
Melissa	Donovan	
Amanda	Dougherty	Chairperson
Mark	Dougherty	
Faith	Dover	
Michelle	Duvall	Secretary
Meredith	Evans	8th Grade Teacher
Carey	Gully	
Michael	Hamilton	Assistant Principal
Shana	Hawk	
Darrell	McDowell	Principal
Cassandra	Moore	7th Grade Teacher
Dana	Moore	
Becky	Moulder	
David	Nations	
Kelly	Philpott	
Blake	Pitts	
Tabita	Romero	
Stephanie	Shepherd	Teacher of the Year
Theresa	Skelton	
Melanie	Smith	
Gayle	Steele	

CATTITUDE

- 100% Effort in all things
- Identify and Maximize Student Talents
- Set Goals, Accomplish Them, and Set More
- Be Well-Rounded : Academics, Arts, Athletics, Behavioral / Social, Service



Nine eighth graders were named as South Carolina Junior Scholars based on their PSAT scores indicating high academic achievement and promise.



Eighth grade science teacher Katie Gillespie turned the tables on her students by having them teach a lesson on either the phases of the moon or why seasons occur to adults. Knowing that to teach a subject one must first master it, Gillespie reasoned that this approach would not only cement the students' knowledge of the content but also give them valuable experience in public speaking and presentation skills.



Seneca Middle School

2020-2021 School Summary Report



Mission Statement

The mission of Seneca Middle School is to develop responsible, competent, and productive life long learners by providing challenging and meaningful educational experiences in cooperation with the home, community and business.

Vision Statement

Seneca Middle School will produce students who can communicate effectively, solve problems competently, think creatively, act responsibly, and recognize and respect individual differences.

Students will be technologically literate and globally minded. This will be accomplished through a variety of learning experiences, teaching strategies, and technology, all supported by ongoing staff development, continuous improvement of facilities and resources, parental involvement, and collaboration with community and businesses.

Dr. Darrell McDowell, Principal

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From Principal Dr. Darrell McDowell



Dear Parents:

The School Summary Report for Seneca Middle School has been prepared to be presented to all school and district stakeholders: Seneca Middle School students and their parents/guardians, as well as the School District of Oconee County Board of Trustees. The report reviews the improvements made last year, displays the test scores for all grades, and describes the activities planned for this school year.

ACT 135 and AdvancEd requires schools to develop a comprehensive five-year plan, which conveys how the school plans to provide appropriate academic services to all students. Each year the plan is reviewed and revised.

If you have questions about the information summarized here, please call Dr. Darrell McDowell, Principal, at 886-4455. You may also email Dr. McDowell at dmcdowell@g.oconee.k12.sc.us.

Our Leadership Team consists of...

- Assistant Principals Shea Martin and Michael Hamilton, Principal Dr. Darrell McDowell
- School Counselors Ginger Smith and Christi Roberts
- School Resource Officer Scott McMahan

We Bobcats Are...

- 863 students, 67 certified staff, and 50 support staff strong
- 277 6th graders, 299 7th graders, and 287 8th graders, 52% male and 48% female
- 60% Caucasian, 21% African American, 10% Hispanic, 10% Asian, Native American, or two or more races.



Bobcat Curricular Targets for 2020-21

Seneca Middle School will continue to review, revise, and improve the School Improvement Plan. For the 2020-2021 school year, we have implemented the following:

Virtual Enrichment Camp - developed and offered for the first time this past summer, this program was designed for a limited number of rising 7th and 8th grade students who could successfully navigate distance learning and benefit from activities that would develop higher-order thinking and problem-solving strategies through art, STEM, book clubs, and physical, social, and academic fitness. Camp participants joined in two one-hour Google Meet session each day over a three-week period and benefited from small class sizes (10 students to 1 teacher) and free materials provided by the school.

Advisement Period (FLEX) - in keeping with the full implementation of Making Middle Grades Work, we have employed a 30-minute, literacy-rich, daily advisement period. Students participate in both SSR and character education lessons through Second Steps. Teachers also read aloud from grade level books that are based on character development.

Pen Pals in Vietnam

English Language Arts (ELA) classes practice writing in many ways; however, very few get formal letter writing practice through pen pals thousands of miles away. One sixth grade ELA class spent the entire year corresponding with 6th graders from a school in Vietnam. Through these exchanged letters, the students not only practiced their writing skills but also learned much about the similarities and differences about their counterparts and their culture in Vietnam.



High School Credit Offerings

Seneca Middle School offers the following courses for high school credit, or Carnegie Units, to qualifying students: Algebra I Honors, English 1 Honors, Spanish 1, Discovering Computer Science Part I (.5) and Part II (.5).



Happening at Seneca Middle School

Music Program Accolades

The coronavirus shutdown cancelled several music competitions and events our music programs typically excel at. Nevertheless, our music programs continued to strive for excellence daily and to excel at those events which did occur. Our band program saw 9 students earn Superior ratings for solo and/or small group performances at the Solo and Ensemble Festival while 2 students earned spots in the Region 1 Honor Band. Twelve middle school band students also joined the high school marching band this season. Following competitive auditions the SMS Chorus Program had 32 of its members earn a spot in the All-County Chorus (out of a total of only 36 spots). The Chorus Program also had 10 students selected for the 2020 All-State Chorus. One student from the Orchestra Program was accepted to Region Orchestra. Several events usually held earlier in the school year have now been scheduled for late in the year with results still unknown.

Veterans Day Program

While the pandemic prevented an in-person assemblage of veterans on campus on Veterans Day, SMS could not let one of our most revered days go unobserved in some way. Recorded performances of the band, chorus and orchestra groups and a slide show of submitted pictures of veterans in the lives of our students were combined into a moving, virtual Veterans Day program available for online viewing.

Girls Cross County

Two SMS Lady Cats joined their HS cross country teammates to win the state championship for the third year in a row.

Family Connections Activities - a series of monthly activities designed to families fun ways to interact with each during this time of the pandemic as well as have students shows their parents how to use new tech tools such as Nearpod, Flipgrid, Google Form, Google Slide, and Canva. Participants were eligible to win gift card prizes which were generously donated by local business partners.